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WKU Parking & Traffic Committee

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W.K.U. PARKING AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

Thursday - 1/12/95

The W.K.U. Parking and Traffic Committee met on the above date at 2:30 pm in the Department of Public Safety's Conference Room.

Members Present: Finley Baird, Bob Cobb, Jim Cummings, Stephanie McCarty, Elizabeth Oakes, Dave Parrott, Dave Wilkinson, Chairman Horace Johnson, Ad-Hoc member Lt. Paul Joiner.

Members Absent: Kemble Johnson, George Niva, Sandra Webb.

Minutes were approved from previous meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Numbered Reserved Parking Spaces - Review and Recommendations.

(a) Current Program - Chairman Johnson thanked the committee members who submitted recommendations to him before the Christmas Break. He then asked each member present to give an opinion on the current program and suggestions for improvement. There was much discussion on the current program, even with the change in hours which all agreed worked better, the consensus of the group was that as the program now stands it presented a large public relations problem. The committee felt it was not in the best interest of the university to be towing off parents of prospective students. Another problem with the system is that the wrecker is so busy, there are times a person has to wait for the wrecker to clear their space. This sometimes makes for a confrontation with the person illegally parked and the person who has the space. Another point brought out was the fact that the university was not receiving much financial benefit from this policy in comparison to the bad will it generated. The enforcement of this policy is difficult and confusing to the public. There were several of the members who have reserved spaces and stated, even though they liked having the spaces, they felt it was in the university's best interest not to continue the current program.

-Motion- by Dave Wilkinson and seconded by Bob Cobb to discontinue the current numbered reserved parking program. Chairman Johnson asked for an individual vote around the table. There were 6 yes and 1 no votes. Chairman Johnson abstained. The committee:

RECOMMENDED TO DISCONTINUE CURRENT PROGRAM of individual numbered reserved spaces in various lots.

(b) Recommendation For Next Year - the majority of the group felt there was a need for some type of reserved parking to take care of the many faculty and staff who must leave the campus and come back during peak hours of the day and to also have a program that would be easy for the visiting public to understand where they should not park. The committee felt that pay lots, using existing lots that could be easily converted (one way in and out) would serve both the university community and the

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The adm comit voted to keep the reserved spaces as they now operate. I agree! The pay lots have some merit. If the committee will be more specific (locations), I would be pleased to review it.

visitors to campus. Card access gates would let only those who had paid enter the lot. (You could even number the spaces in the lot so that a person would get the same spot everyday.) The visiting public would see the gate and know automatically they could not park there. This policy would be easier to enforce. You would have control of the gate to program it to open for special events or after hours for night class students. Some possible lots suggested, Hilltop (some refer to as the library lot), or Grise Lot, or even one floor of the Parking Structure. If not all the spaces sold in the lots, it could be opened to students to purchase. The monies collected for the reserved lots could go into paying for the gate access equipment. It was also suggested that Western could make a pay lot for visitors. Most universities charge everyone some type of fee to park. There were some questions as to how much to charge, could a person retain the same space every year or change. Chairman Johnson said the committee could decide on these and other questions if the policy is adopted.

-Motion- by Bob Cobb and seconded by Elizabeth Oakes to adopt a "Pay Lot" reserved parking program in existing lots with a gate access system. All members voted to:

RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL a "Pay Lot" reserved parking program.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request from Rose Hullett for one off street parking space behind EST beside greenhouses be designated 10 minute parking for Ogden Environmental Lab Patrons only from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Agreed → The committee felt there were already two load and unload spaces located next to ES & T. Also noted there was a moritorium on additional reserved spaces at this time.

-Motion- by Dave Parrott and seconded by Finley Baird to deny the request. All members voted to:

RECOMMEND TO DENY the addition of a reserved space for the Water Quality Lab.

With all the business concluded Chairman Johnson stated he had a few items not on the agenda to discuss:

- A. Abolish stick-on parking stickers for Faculty/Staff.

It was thought to make all parking charges equitable to eliminate the stick-on parking sticker for Faculty/Staff. The students have not had a choice for some time. This would make all parking decals transferable. A side benefit would be an increase in decal revenue. (The difference is \$15.) To date there have been 1039 stick-on parking decals sold. If these had been sold as transferable, the benefit to the university could have been an additional \$15,585.

-Motion- by Bob Cobb seconded by Stephanie McCarty to eliminate the Faculty/Staff stick-on decal. All members voted to:

Agreed **RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL** to eliminate Faculty/Staff stick-on decals.

B. Charges for Parking Decals next year.

The committee felt the current \$45 was an adequate amount to charge for parking. The committee also felt that if the stick-on decals were eliminated, there could be an increase in revenue of approximately \$16,000, therefore no increase in the fee would be needed.

-Motion- Parking fees for next year to stay the same \$45.00.

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL parking fees to stay the same amount.

*will be considered
with other fees by
Budget Comm.*

C. As a safety measure - change speed limit on Big Red Way to 25 mph, 24 hours a day.

At present there is a sign for School Zone 25mph 7 to 5. The city of Bowling Green has made all the residential roads 25mph. There is quite a bit of pedestrian traffic across this street in the evening hours that would warrant the 25mph speed zone. This could deter many from using this road as a quick through and cut down on vehicular traffic.

-Motion- by Dave Parrott seconded by Jim Cummings to change the speed limit on Big Red Way to 25mph. All members voted to:

RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL 24 hour, 25 mph speed limit on Big Red Way.

Agreed!

D. Proposal by Huda Melky, ADA Coordinator for a tiered H/C parking program.

Chairman Johnson shared with the committee a proposal for H/C parking. He and Lt. Joiner had a meeting earlier with Ms. Melky and a representative of the State Transportation Cabinet. Attached is a copy of the proposal. The Tiered H/C parking permit would be based on mobility. These persons would have to have a H/C permit from the state and would have to go before a committee at WKU comprised of Ms. Melky, a doctor and one other person. See attached copy of proposal. The committee wanted to know if the H/C parking was that difficult to find. There is wide spread abuse across the state of H/C permits. We have several students who need to use these spaces and are having a very difficult time being able to attend their classes. The committee also felt that educating the public would be very difficult to this new policy. Chairman Johnson asked that the committee members read the proposal for more discussion at a later date.

Chairman Johnson asked if there was any other business the committee wanted to discuss.

E. Dave Wilkinson asked about requiring the night class students to pay for parking decals.

The committee did not feel it wanted to address this issue at this time. Suggestion tabled.

F. Dave Wilkinson also brought up the subject of the bad condition of Mimosa Lot - and asked if something could be done to better mark the area and put in more gravel.

Chairman Johnson said he had talked to Mr. Threlkeld earlier on this, but would do so again.

- G. Stephanie McCarty asked about South Lawn - was it a parking area or not and could it be paved because it was not very eye appealing as it is.

Chairman Johnson stated that if the pay lots were approved, the committee could propose this area be paved. It could possibly serve as a visitor pay lot. The committee agreed to bring this up at a later date.

- H. Finley Baird asked if there could be better communication to the students about Old Fort Lot being time limit. She stated that not many of the students who came into their area seemed to know about it and took chances parking illegally to do their business in Admissions.

Chairman Johnson said there were signs posted at the entrance to that lot. Finley stated the students were not going on up the hill but rather going around the front of Potter toward WAB. Chairman Johnson said that he, Lt. Joiner and Mr. Threlkeld would take a look at this.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

xc: Dr. Thomas Meredith, President